



COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SERVICES, VETERANS, CULTURE, AND RECREATION

Councilor Marianne LaBarge, Chair

Councilor Alisa F. Klein

Councilor Gina-Louise Sciarra

MEETING MINUTES

Monday July 21, 2014

4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

City Council Chambers, 212 Main Street

Wallace J. Puchalski Municipal Building, Northampton, MA

*Activate NCTV Camera to Record Meeting

1. **Members present/absent:** Members Present: Councilors Marianne LaBarge, Alisa Klein, and Gina-Louise Sciarra; Members Absent: None; Councilor LaBarge left the meeting at 5:00 pm.
2. **Meeting Called to Order:** At 4:00pm Councilor LaBarge called the meeting to order.
3. **Announcement of Audio/Video Recording of Meeting:** Councilor LaBarge announced that the meeting would be video and audio taped.
4. **Approval of Minutes of June 16, 2014:** Councilor Sciarra moved to accept the minutes of June 16, 2014; Councilor Klein seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were accepted on a voice vote of 3 Yes, 0 No.
5. **4:05 p.m. – Merridith O'Leary, RS, Director of Public Health, City of Northampton**

Health Director Merridith O'Leary spoke about the following:

- Scope of services provided by the health department
- Emerging/re-emerging contagious disease

Director O'Leary's slide presentation showed a variety of topics addressed by the Public Health Department, including:

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| • Cleanup after Natural Disasters | • Inspection for Bug Infestation at Hotel Establishments |
| • Disaster Relief Programs | • Immunization Programs |
| • Licensure for Recreational Camps | • Public Pool Inspections |
| • Musante Beach Inspections for Safety & Water Quality. | • Inspection & Licensure of Tanning Salons |
| • Disease Tracking Caused by Insects | • Rabies Prevention |
| • Community Disposal Program for Used Sharps | • Permits to Trap beavers & Breach Dams |
| • Food Service Inspections | • Smoke Free Law Enforcement |
| • Current Health Concerns, Including Obesity & the Diabetes Epidemic | • Performing Soil Evaluation & Witness Percolation Tests |
| • Hoarding | • Septic System Inspection |
| | • Tattoo & Body Piercing Safety |
- The Board of Health is the local regulating authority that has the responsibility to set policy & make regulations that protect and preserve the health of the community. The five-member board includes:
 - A Retired CDC Physician
 - A Physician who is the Director of Infectious Control at Cooley Dickinson Hospital
 - A retired OSHA Compliance Officer
 - A professor at UMASS
 - An employee of the State Dept. of Public Health
 - The Public Health Department is comprised of:

- One full-time Public Health Director (reports to Mayor and the Board of Health)
- One part-time Clerk
- One full & one part-time Inspector
- One full-time Public Health Nurse
- In 2013 the Public Health Department performed 1416 inspections and issued 658 permits in the following areas:
 - Food Establishments
 - Recreational Water
 - Housing/Nuisance
 - Title V
 - Schools
 - Recreational Camps
 - Tobacco
 - Hotel/Motel
 - Tanning
 - Body Art Practitioners
- Director O'Leary indicated that how people die has shifted from infectious diseases to behavior related deaths (tobacco use and obesity) and chronic diseases.
- Emerging Diseases include: newly identified diseases, such as SARS, MERSA, Avian Flu
- Reemerging Diseases include: diseases that have been around for a while, including measles, mumps, polio.
- Contributing to Emerging and Re-emergence diseases:
 - Evolution of pathogenic infectious agents
 - Development of resistance to drugs
 - Resistance of vectors to pesticides
 - International travel
 - Human behavior
- Role of Public Health Department:
 - Surveillance and early response --MAVEN
 - Assessment of health status, risks, and services available to a community
 - Development of health policy
 - Laboratory identification
 - Rapid communication with medical providers and hospitals
 - Communication with the media, public and health care provider
 - Environmental assessment and remediation

6. **Public Comment—None**

7. **Councilor LaBarge made an announcement that there will be a PUBLIC HEARING ON SEPTEMBER 15, 2014 regarding the VIBRANT SIDEWALK RESOLUTION.** The Public Hearing will be from 5:00pm-6:30 pm in City Council Chambers, 212 Main Street, Northampton.
8. **Update on Benches in the Center of Florence:** Regarding new benches in the Center of Florence, Councilor LaBarge informed the group that the Florence Civic and Business Association doesn't want benches installed. These benches were to be funded by the Commission on Disabilities. Ruth McGrath, Secretary for the Commission on Disabilities, commented that the FCBA does not own the sidewalks, that they are owned by the City. She stated that the Commission on Disabilities has had people mention that they would like to have benches in Florence; clarification is needed from the Florence Civic and Business Association regarding what the concerns are. Councilor LaBarge indicated that the owner of Florence Diner is excited about benches in the downtown area. Councilor LaBarge has asked for the Mayor's support.

9. **5:00 p.m. — Bernice Drumheller, President, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Western Massachusetts**

Ella Smolenski, Family to Family Teacher for the NAMI Family to Family Course

- Bernice Drumheller talked about what NAMI is and does. It is the Nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to improving the lives of individuals living with mental illness and their families

Mental illness affects everyone; it does not discriminate; 1 in 4 adults and 1 in 10 children are affected. NAMI works everyday to save lives. NAMI is the largest grass roots organization; it was established in 1982. The goals of the organization are to build better lives for those living with mental illness, provide access to services and treatment, and to reach out to those in need. It is the foundation for hundreds of organizations that provides awareness, advocacy and support related programs; the organization operates on donations alone in Hampden, Hampshire & Franklin counties. Fundraisers include a walkathon in May and a Benefit in October. This year's Benefit is a 30 year celebration of NAMI; the benefit will be held at Chez Josef of Agawam; the former first lady of Massachusetts, Kitty Dukakis, will be the Key Note Speaker.

- Ella Smolenski gave an overview of Family to Family course

Cooley Dickinson Hospital offers a 12 week free course that discusses the clinical principals of mental illness. It is lead by Dr. Bruce Bradley Gilbert. The course teaches where there is help, there is hope. 300,000 families and individuals have completed this course nationwide. Topics covered include clinical principals, goals, how to define mental health; available medications and problem solving. Each situation is different and strategies are discussed about how to find help and how to cope with a specific mental illness. Most importantly, attendees are taught that mental illness is a treatable illness. This 12 week course reviews where families can gain access to mental health care services. Strategies are discussed about how to maintain the self esteem of someone who has a mental illness.

The NPD has taken the Crisis Intervention Program to identify potential suicide situations. Ninety percent of suicides are attributed to a diagnosis of mental illness. There is a 1-800-talk line available 24 hours a day. Families of those with mental illness are encouraged to develop a crisis file as it is important to know how to respond effectively when a crisis hits.

The next upcoming course will be offered on Saturdays beginning September 6th from 9-11:30 am for 12 consecutive weeks. Pre-registration is required. Interested parties can contact Ella @ e.smolenski@comcast.net or by phone at (413) 584-7796. Or contact NAMI directly at 1-413-786-9139 or visit the NAMI website at www.namium.org.

10. Public Comment-NONE

- 11. 5:30 p.m. – Janet Moulding , Director, Forbes Library**
Lisa Downing, Assistant Director /Head of Patron Services
Marjorie Hess, Library Trustee

Assistant Director and Head of Patron Services, Lisa Downing, discussed how the library is used. A handout was given; books are just the beginning of what the library has to offer. Assistant Director Downing reports that

- 396,000 items circulate annually; 175 items per hour are checked out.
- Through the library's affiliation with C/W MARS program, 30,000 free digital books are available.
- The Library also offers Museum passes for a number of Massachusetts and New England venues.
- It was reported that 62 % of Northampton Residents have library cards.
- Free WI-FI is available at the Library, as well as use of a desktop computer with Internet access.
- Conference rooms are available for meetings.

- The Library holds Historical collections; the Calvin Coolidge Memorial Room holds many artifacts formerly owned by the former President. In addition, The "Hampshire Room" includes references for local history research. Finally, the Daily Hampshire Gazette Newspaper is available in microfilm, print and digitally
- Summer reading program for adults and children are offered. Prizes are available.
- There is a job seeker support group partner that meets regularly at the Library.

How does the Library manage all of those amazing things? AD Downing indicated that the Library is certified by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissions. With certification, the library receives state aid of \$35,000, and is therefore entitled to various grants offered to libraries. The certification requires that the Library spend 13% of money on circulating of materials.

Forbes Library Director, Janet Moulding, discussed recovery status from a recent fire in the building. Damage was slight; the carpeted staircase woodwork was not completely destroyed. A local woodwork conservator indicated that most of it can be saved. The City's Insurance Company hired ServiceMaster to do restoration. Work reclaim includes cleaning every DVD case and disc. Since fire extinguisher dust is very corrosive, the crew must be very careful to remove all of it. A question about the use of Fire Extinguishers was answered by indicating that ABC type fire extinguishers are the best extinguisher source for the type of fire that took place. The use of water would have made restoration possibilities more difficult as the water would have ruined all of the valuable paper archives

12. NEW BUSINESS -- *Reserved for topics that the Chair did not reasonably anticipate would be discussed*—NONE
13. ADJOURN-- At 6:15 Councilor Sciarra made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Councilor Klein seconded the motion. The motion passed on a voice vote of 2 Yes and 0 No.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 15, 2014 at 5:00 -6:30 pm.

Contact:
 Pamela Powers
 Clerk to the City Council
 413-587-1210
ppowers@northamptonma.gov